



Dual Certification with the National Green Building Standard™

Builders Challenge

Spearheaded by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), the Builders Challenge invites homebuilders across America to build a new generation of high-performance homes using proven innovations, and to work toward the ultimate goal of providing cost-neutral, net-zero energy homes nationwide by 2030.

U.S. homebuilders of all sizes, from all areas of the country, report growing consumer interest in energy-efficient houses. Yet buyers often lack the information to make informed decisions or are skeptical of claims they hear, and builders of truly energy-efficient homes may need additional resources to increase their visibility among this growing market segment. DOE carefully designed the Builders Challenge to work with existing energy and green building programs by providing a standardized metric for whole-house energy performance, thereby increasing consumer understanding and builder credibility. Qualifying homes must receive a rating of 70 or better on the EnergySmart Home Scale (E-Scale); build to a climate-appropriate Technology Information Package; or comply with a Challenge Partner Program—like the National Green Building Program—at a specified level.

National Green Building Program

The National Association of Home Builders' National Green Building Program (NAHB Green) offers certification to the ICC 700 National Green Building Standard (NGBS), an ANSI-approved consensus standard that provides criteria for rating the environmental performance of residential buildings including detached and attached single-family, multifamily, and renovation projects. The NAHB Research Center, a nationally-accredited third-party certification agency, is the sole certifier for NAHB Green and is a Builders Challenge Partner. Based on this existing partnership, houses certified under the NGBS can be concurrently qualified with the Builders Challenge when specific criteria are met.

For a house to qualify for dual certification through NAHB Green to the NGBS and the Builders Challenge, builders should use the free online Green Scoring Tool (www.nahbgreen.org/ScoringTool.aspx). Qualification with the Builders Challenge requires specific NGBS practices to be selected, which are summarized in the chart on the back of this page. The Green Scoring Tool simplifies the rating process by identifying the NGBS practices required for the Builders Challenge, and by providing a Builders Challenge Designer's Report as well as a real-time status notification when all of the required criteria have been selected and met. Using one process to certify both homes also streamlines the generation and delivery of labels and certifications.

► **The E-Scale: Energy Performance at a Glance** The EnergySmart Home Scale (E-Scale) is an objective rating system to help buyers understand a particular home's energy efficiency in comparison to others. A 70 on the E-Scale, for example, indicates that a home is 30 percent more energy efficient than a typical new home built to code. Builders place E-Scale labels on the power panels of qualifying Builders Challenge homes.

BUILDERS CHALLENGE AND THE NATIONAL GREEN BUILDING STANDARD



**NAHB NATIONAL
GREEN BUILDING
PROGRAM™**

One key element of NAHB's suite of green building tools is National Green Building Certification, administered by the NAHB Research Center. The Research Center accredits verifiers and acts as the sole certifying body for the National Green Building Program.

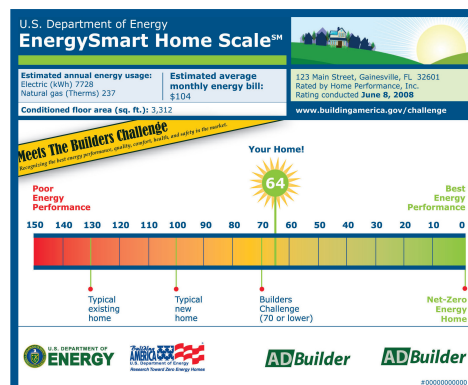


The NAHB Research Center **Green Certified** mark is a homebuyer's assurance that a home is green when it is delivered by the builder.

Homes that carry this mark are inspected at least twice by accredited third-party verifiers to confirm that the builder's green claims are true. No self-certifications or affidavits are allowed.



Builders Challenge
Recognizing Energy Leadership
in Homebuilding



Overview of Required NGBS Provisions to Meet the Builders Challenge

Builders Challenge Requirement (only mandatory provisions listed)	NGBS Practice(s)	Notes
Energy performance requirement	702.2	Must obtain at least 60 points, exceeding 2006 International Energy Conservation Code by 30% or more.
Third-party verification	704.6.1	NGBS awards 5 points.
BCQC Requirement 1: Project Documentation	701.3 602.12	
BCQC Requirement 2: Building Envelope Moisture Management	602.3.1 602.3.2	Mandatory in NGBS. NGBS awards 4 points.
BCQC Requirement 23: Moisture Management Field Verification	602.6 602.9 602.12 903.2.1 903.2.2	Mandatory in NGBS. Mandatory in NGBS. NGBS awards 6 points. Mandatory in NGBS. NGBS awards 3 points.
BCQC Requirement 5: Space Conditioning Design	701.4.1.1 701.4.1.2 704.5.1 704.5.2	Mandatory in NGBS. Mandatory in NGBS. NGBS awards 1 point. NGBS awards 1 point.
BCQC Requirement 10: ENERGY STAR® Windows	701.4.4.1	BCQC require that windows be labeled ENERGY STAR.
BCQC Requirement 11: Whole-Building Mechanical Ventilation I	902.2.1	NGBS awards 8 to 17 points, depending on system type.
BCQC Requirement 12: Kitchen Ventilation	902.1.1(3)	NGBS awards 8 points.
BCQC Requirement 13: Bathroom Ventilation	902.1.1(1)	Mandatory in NGBS.
BCQC Requirement 14: Clothes Dryer Venting	902.1.1(2)	Mandatory in NGBS.
BCQC Requirement 15: Duct Leakage	704.6.2.2	NGBS awards up to 15 points.
BCQC Requirement 16: Air Barrier and Insulation Integrity	701.4.3.1 701.4.3.2 701.4.3.4 703.2.1 902.6	Mandatory in NGBS. Mandatory in NGBS as applicable. Mandatory in NGBS. Third-party verification required. NGBS awards up to 8 points.
BCQC Requirement 17: Filtration	902.2.3	NGBS awards 3 points.
BCQC Requirement 18: Combustion Safety	901.1.1 901.1.3	NGBS awards up to 10 points.
BCQC Requirement 19: Carbon Monoxide	901.12	NGBS awards 3 points.
BCQC Requirement 22: Air Handler Location	901.1.2	NGBS awards 5 points.

For more information, go to www.buildingamerica.gov/challenge or www.nahbgreen.org



EERE Information Center
1-877-EERE-INF (1-877-337-3463)
www.eere.energy.gov